

P9, Bill 13

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June 2, 2015

From: Gayle Mizukami, former probation officer with Girls Court

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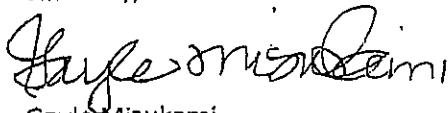
Phone: (808) 538-5947

Dear Members of the City Council:

I am writing to support the Amendment to the Grants In Aid Bill 13 (Appendix B5) to provide Grant in Aid funding to Surfrider Spirit Sessions.

I worked with the Surfrider Spirit Sessions program for three and a half years as a probation officer having teenage female clients participate in the sessions and had first-hand experience seeing the interaction with the girls and the program staff. I fully believe that this program fills the gap that other programs and services in Hawaii cannot provide. I have observed the support, camaraderie, and team work that my clients experienced from participating in the program, which was a tremendous asset in their lives. The program gives at-risk teenagers the ability to learn and benefit from one-on-one mentorship and also learn that surfing can be used as a metaphor for life's lessons. They enjoyed the life lessons that they gained and for some, are still using this knowledge today.

Sincerely,



Gayle Mizukami
Senior Probation Officer
State Judiciary of Hawaii